

25X1



4 FEB 1977

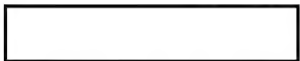
MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

FROM: D C I

SUBJECT: *Nomination for your Deputy*

Just to let you know that I discussed the possibility of

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being nominated for your deputy's position with the Secretary of the Navy. He said he would look into it quickly. (u)

*passed by phone<sup>ST</sup>*

*don't send memo*

# S. Korea and US — ties tug both ways

America has defense pledge  
and investments to consider

By **Frederic A. Moritz**  
Staff correspondent of  
The Christian Science Monitor

Seoul

The hotels are filled with American "buyers." Their job is to import cut-rate items like jackets and sweaters.

In the cafés and clubs of I Tae Wan, black and white GIs listen to the pounding, earsplitting blasts of the latest disco beat.

And through much of South Korea, American-style radio and television broadcasting brings the latest on Sen. Edward Kennedy's challenge to President Carter — or a popular late-night movie.

American Forces Korea Network is just a symbol of how closely intertwined the United States and South Korea have become. Some 38,000 American soldiers, sailors, and airmen provide a "tripwire" deterrent against a repetition of the 1950 North Korean invasion.

Of \$1 billion in foreign investment in South Korea, American capital makes up some \$300 million, second only to Japan's \$600 million.

Any major event in South Korea sparks speculation on US involvement. "Did America's CIA help kill President Park?" students, businessmen, and professors asked this correspondent.

But what is less obvious is the vast reverse influence Korea exercises on the United States. For the two Koreas remain a "balkanized" area where deliberate decision or con-

fused miscalculation could draw the major world-powers into war. Chinese and Soviet divisions remain as close backups near their borders with North Korea.

The whole point of the American presence on the border between North and South is to guarantee that American tanks will open fire in any escalation of hostilities that might prompt North Korean leader Kim Il Sung to march South.

So whether South Korea can replace the regime of the late Park Chung Hee with a stable new order could affect America's fortunes for years.

For if a new confrontation between government and opposition brings crowds and tanks to the streets, there is the possibility Kim Il Sung might move to exploit this. The result could plunge the United States into war.

There is no other place in the world where the United States has as firm a bilateral commitment to fight in event of attack.

On the other hand, should the Army-backed civilian government of President Ch'oi Kyu-ha build bridges to the opposition and unify the nation, the way could open for a more vigorous peaceful "dialogue" between North and South Korea.

In the past North Korea refused to talk to the South's President Park unless opposition leaders were included. It remains to be seen if closer cooperation between the South's government and opposition, plus a more flexible Northern position, might speed up the dialogue.

That this should happen seems clearly to be in the interest of China. Peking could then

improve relations with South Korea without offending its communist neighbor, North Korea (thus "driving" it into the Soviet camp). Peaceful dialogue could also be useful to the Soviet Union by reducing the prospect that it might have to support North Korea in a war against the United States.

But many analysts suggest the North's Kim Il Sung remains fundamentally unpredictable. So the warning remains: Unless South Korea can maintain political, social, and economic stability, the fuse will grow shorter on a major area of potential war among the great powers.